

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 10-27 were pending. Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 21-24 and 26 were rejected, and Claims 12, 15-17, 20, 25 and 27 were objected to in the present Office Action. Claim 10 has been amended, and new Claim 28 has been presented. No new matter has been introduced. The Applicant has carefully considered the references and the reasons presented by the Examiner, and respectfully traverses the rejections in view of the amendments and the remarks presented below. In view of this response the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the finality of the Office Action, enter the amendments and issue a notice of allowance.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 12, 15-17, 20, 25 and 27, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of this amendment and the remarks below, the Applicant respectfully declines the Examiner's suggestion, while expressing appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as anticipated by Rogers (US2001/0025545; "Rogers"). The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of anticipation, however Claim 10 has been amended to further describe the subject matter .

Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, after the projections are positioned in the gaps, the gaps retain the projections, and the knob and the fitting member are enabled to be coupled to each other.

Rogers teaches a device where a housing 10 has two parts 14, 16 which may selectively engage a ratchet member 12. The ratchet member 12 is provided

with a ratchet surface 24 facing a first part 14 of the ratchet housing, a ratchet surface 26 facing a second part 16 of the ratchet housing. The Examiner has argued (Office action, page 2) that the feature A8 indicated on a marked-up drawing of Fig. 1 of the reference corresponds to a gap as recited in Claim 10. The Applicant respectfully calls attention that this same feature is marked as 24 in the published drawing, and is described by Rogers as a ratchet tooth. On inspection of the drawing, it is seen to be an inclined plane fully filling the space between any pair of inclined planes. To the extent that the Examiner intends A8 to point to the vertical face where the upper end of one inclined plane and the lower end of the adjacent inclined plane meet, a vertical wall does not meet the common meaning of the word "gap". Rogers teaches that the hand wheel is fitted to a screw such that the hand wheel may rotate with respect to the screw (Rogers, paragraph 0004). Each of the housing parts 14 and 16 can cause the ratchet member 12 to rotate in one direction with respect to the shaft (screw). (Rogers, paragraph 0004). This meets the ordinary meaning of the word "ratchet", which permits motion in one rotary direction only with respect to the shaft. As such, each of the first and second parts of the ratchet housing may rotate freely with respect to the shaft when rotated with respect to the shaft in at least one direction, and rotate with respect to the ratchet member when rotated in at least one direction. As such Rogers does not teach the arrangement of Claim 10, where the gaps retain the projections and Claim 10 is not anticipated, and is allowable. Claims 11, 13, 14, 18 and 19 are claims dependent on an allowable claim and are allowable, without more.

Claims 10, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Hecht (US 6,276,879; "Hecht").

Hecht teaches the mounting of a cutting head on a tool holder in a self-clamping manner. The cutting head 1 is rotated relative to the tool shank 2 around axis A in a direction of rotation thereof during a cutting operation (Hecht, col. 5, lines 48-50. By virtue of the specifically chosen direction of the positioning surfaces 16 and 42, the cutting forces acting, during the cutting operation, on edge 8 of the cutting head 1 facilitate the self-clamping of the cutting head on the tool

shank 2. (Hecht, col. 6, lines 4-9). It is evident that rotation of the cutting head in the reverse direction, after self-clamping, would result in disengagement of the cutting head and the tool shank. Hence, Hecht does not teach the arrangement of Claim 10, where the gaps retain the projections. Therefore Claim 10 is not anticipated by the teachings of Hecht, and is allowable. Claims 21-24 and 26 are dependent on an allowable claim and are allowable, without more.

New Claim

New Claim 28 has been introduced to further claim subject matter to which the Applicant is entitled. As discussed above, neither Rogers nor Hecht teach gaps as in the arrangement of Claim 28, where the projections are positioned in the gaps, and the knob and the fitting member are enabled to be fixedly coupled to each other. According to the teachings of both of the references, the two pieces, as variously described, are able to be rotated with respect to each other in at least one direction.

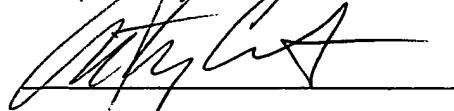
Conclusion

Claims 10-28 are pending after entry of this amendment. Claim 10 has been amended, and new Claim 28 introduced.

For at least the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable and request that a Notice of Allowance issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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